(b) if so, the name of the units and the status of the TEFR;

(c) the tentative date by which the approval of the TEFR and funding of the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the tentative date for commencement of these revival projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action has been initiated to prepare Techno Economic Feasibility Reports (TEFR) in respect of the following:

(i) Closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) at Talcher, Ramagundam and Gorakhpur.

(ii) Closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) at . Durgapur and Barauni.

In respect HFCL, Haldia, FCIL, Sindri and Korba, options are being explored for preparing TEFR.

(c) and (d) The work is at a preliminary stage. As such no definite dates for finalization/approval of TEFR and funding of project could be indicated.

Amendment of AIIMS Act

2035. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend AIIMS Act, 1956 and also the law governing PGIMER, Chandigarh to fix tenure of their Directors; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when it is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAM DOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20.8.2007.

Purchase of gas

2036. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few fertilizer companies have already signed a deal with RIL for purchasing gas;

(b) if so, what are those companies and at what rate the said agreements have been signed by them; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in regard to those rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) M/s. Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (NFCL) and Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL) have signed Term Sheets with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for purchase of gas. The price of gas quoted under the contract is subject to approval of the Government. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has been set up to decide the issues of gas pricing and commercial utilization of
gas.

Subsidy on fertilizers

†2037. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of subsidy on the chemical fertilizers in the year 2007-2008 has been increased in comparison to that of last year;

(b) If so, the percentage of increase; and the amount of subsidy provided by Government so far;

(c) whether Government have identified the reasons of increasing the amount of subsidy this year; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The requirement of subsidy on chemical fertilizers in the year 2007-08 has increased in comparison to that of last year. The total expenditure of subsidy in 2006-07 was Rs. 25, 952 crore. In addition, there is a carry over liability of Rs. 8788.37 crore from 2006-07 to 2007-08. The total requirement of subsidy in 2007-08 is Rs. 47,979.45 crore, including the carryover liability of Rs. 8788.37 crore. The above increase in requirement of subsidy is due to increased consumption of fertilizers in the country and also due to the sharp increase in international prices of raw materials and finished fertilizers.

Shortage of fertilizers

2038. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are urging farmers to grow more food, especially pulses, in the upcoming kharif season, but major agrarian States like Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh have pointed out that the fertilizer crisis is seriously affecting pulses and other crops;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.